

Library of Australia

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group, however, must be taken at the same time as the rest, and there is no provision made for the return of a senior candidate in a subsequent year. The examination in other advanced subjects. They differ also in paying less attention to mathematics, and considerably more to history, requiring a knowledge of French, German, and Greek history, as well as English, from the senior candidates.

The first examinations of the Queen's University in Ireland took place in June last, in Belfast and Galway, for junior and senior students, and at the same time. In general, their plans are like those of Cambridge, except that, in accordance with the principles of the university, religious knowledge is not included among the subjects for any of the degrees. These examinations, also, are, as I think, defective in not providing for testing continued progress at any subsequent period. The Queen's examinations lay, perhaps, greater stress on English literature and cognate subjects than those of Cambridge do, and on subjects of natural science than those of Dublin. Neither of the Irish universities have a junior examination for girls. In their arrangements, the junior candidates correspond to the seniors in the girls' examinations of Cambridge, and the seniors to the candidates in the women's examinations of Cambridge.

Edinburgh University has as yet only local examinations for girls, none for women, though it has shown sympathy in the matter by opening one important department of its own college classes to women. Oxford has only this year extended its local examinations to girls, but has none for women.

It will be seen from this hasty sketch that Cambridge, Dublin, and the Queen's University, offer examinations to women of another type. In each of the three first-named the examinations were granted in answer to memorials from bodies of ladies who were acquainted with the necessities of the Irish universities, that neither of them have junior examinations for girls. As regards older girls and women, there can be no doubt that neither in health, nor spirit, nor in any other way, are they injured by the efforts required to meet the examinations. The Edinburgh School Commissioners state in their report: "A preponderant number of authorities have testified that, judiciously applied, the system of examinations, which necessarily involves emulation more or less, has been found in experience to be entirely harmless; and if it is, it is needless to say that its effects in stimulating the mind must be powerful in very wide space and liberty of choice is given as to the higher subjects."

The London University took the steps needful to enable them to assist the education of women, no far as I know, of their own motion only, without having been formally requested to do so. Possibly this is partly the cause of the difference in style. They have had the benefit of the experience of a prescribed and very large amount of knowledge from the candidate who comes to their principal examination, and only after that position has been fully won, permitting any choice of subjects upon a further occasion.

It would be a great mistake to think that either of these types of examination ought to supersede the others. Everywhere it is true that the principles of the examination, wherever they have been applied, for the most part, are very much more useful than those which are imposed from without. There is room, therefore, for the adoption of either, or a still greater variety. The plans of the three universities, which are closely together, are probably the most suitable for immediate use, as leaving freedom in local choice for such selections and combinations as may be made as they are best adapted to the needs of the candidates themselves, and as to the teaching which must precede them. On the other hand, the clearly defined course and high standard of the London examinations show, with unmistakable and authoritative emphasis, what kind of education can be made of the most satisfactory kind, and the influence of the influential classes. The distinction with which the path is marked out—difficult though it may be—has already recommended it to the acceptance of the best minds of the country.

These examinations are an educational compromise. They test teaching, and therefore are valuable to the teacher; they stimulate study, and therefore are valuable to the student. They place before the public in detail in many different localities, and influences which might prevent the spontaneous action of a favourable atmosphere—the matured opinion of the best and most experienced authorities on education; and therefore are valuable to the whole community, students, teachers, parents, and society at large. It is true that a scheme which would provide such a wealth of the best and most thoughtful will; but if we waited for such an event it would never come. It is by doing the best we can, with the machinery we possess, that we may expect to see the best of our institutions more nearly corresponding to the best of the world.

It is, however, to the advantage of the universities, as expressed in the first instance through their examinations, that we look to convince society of the great necessity of collegiate teaching. In the mean time, it is always well to exaggerate the effect they have already produced. Of course, no one supposes them to be perfect; but faults of detail will be detected and rectified in working. There is room in connection with them for schools, colleges, institutions, associations of all kinds, to try the most various plans, and from the collision of all these to strike out sparks of intellectual light which may be fanned into flames of knowledge.

But now, at once, the fact of the relations formed by them, in each locality, between the most diverse and scattered educational agencies and the universities, secures a unity of action, which is a source of strength. The course of study required, and the character of the examinations, of the majority of the students, will presently be recognised as having so obvious a superiority over the old type, as to exercise a desirable moral and intellectual influence on the cultivated classes within their range. The more commonly this is the case, the greater will be the usefulness of the examinations; for, there are disadvantages connected with no experience which disappear with their novelty. Non-academic circumstances are often unjustly allowed to colour the opinions of persons respecting new and important schemes, and the full sympathy of the public will only be given to the system by degrees, just as we come to common that no sense of strangeness presses upon the young student who is preparing for the examinations, and no dread of unfamiliarity hinders him from entering the arena of the winner of honours. Every day brings this desirable and reasonable state of things nearer, and every examination held brushes away a host of old-world cobwebs, and lets the daylight of practical wisdom shine into corners not reached before.

Examinations are not means of educating, but they are means of testing education; and their immediate effect has always been to change the aspect of the schools of the district. It was not many years ago that a guide, they had wandered far from the path, but that they had come to sleep altogether. No one seemed to care what was being done there, and girls found no interest taken in their studies, so it was no wonder they took none. What could a schoolmaster do? Himself no better changed, so "accustomed" were they to the old state of things, that he had no power to make a change; so "accustomed" were they to the old state of things, that he had no power to make a change; so "accustomed" were they to the old state of things, that he had no power to make a change.

For SALE, a HORSE, Van, and Harness. Apply J. Nichols, Riley-st., opp. Francis-st., Woolloomooloo.

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say:—"The difference between a useful education and one which does not affect the future life, is mainly on the question of the activity which it communicates to the pupil's mind; whether he has learned to think, or to act, and to gain knowledge by himself, or whether he has merely followed passively as long as there was some one to draw him." That vital activity of mind is fostered, one might almost say is rendered possible, only by activity of mind in all which influence the student. To arouse this is the first and most important service which the examinations have done and are doing, and they are the only available means by which it could be done at present for the community at large.

It must be remembered, when considering what good is effected by this system, that it is by no means confined to the actual candidates. Every girl in a school in which candidates are prepared is benefited by the high standard set up, and the elevation of view, the regularity and animation, which must more or less characterise the school work. Even smaller or lower schools, which send up no candidates, are raised in tone by the improved sentiment around them. This sort of indirect influence is certain to increase. When it becomes known that a school is successful in preparing candidates, it will become more popular, and therefore larger; and side is an important element of usefulness. Other things being equal, a large school is always a better instrument of instruction than a small one—better classified, better taught with more scope for action, more dignity, more life.

This indirect influence is, indeed, that by which this movement can best affect younger girls, for the only real objection to examinations is that they are sometimes rather too useful. It is better that their knowledge should be tested in a simple way, before they come forward to the open examination; and I am inclined to think that it is no disadvantage in the plans of London and of the Irish universities, that neither of them have junior examinations for girls. As regards older girls and women, there can be no doubt that neither in health, nor spirit, nor in any other way, are they injured by the efforts required to meet the examinations. The Edinburgh School Commissioners state in their report: "A preponderant number of authorities have testified that, judiciously applied, the system of examinations, which necessarily involves emulation more or less, has been found in experience to be entirely harmless; and if it is, it is needless to say that its effects in stimulating the mind must be powerful in very wide space and liberty of choice is given as to the higher subjects."

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MOORE'S Carriage Factory. Smith's Rd. Baggins of all descriptions. Phantoms, Wagnons, Harness, &c. LIGHT CART, 3 springs, 66 lbs. Wood cart, or up-truck, 60 lbs. Shop, Hyde Park-st., Liverpool-street.

WANTED. To Sell a grey HORSE, £3 10s. trial. Victoria Park, corner of Newmarket Road. R. Cox.

AUCTION SALES.
Important Sale of Horses, Vehicles, and Saddlery. THIS DAY.

BROWN and JONES will sell by auction, at their Pitt-street Yards (late Dawson's), at 11.30 o'clock.
Horses, broken to saddle and harness (light and heavy draught).
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BROWN and JONES have received instructions from a Gentleman to sell by auction, at 11.30 o'clock, the magnificent bay filly SUSAN, 2 years, by Kyogle out of Queen of Diamonds.

BROWN and JONES have received instructions from J. Druce, Esq., to sell by auction, at 11.30 o'clock, the magnificent bay filly SUSAN, 2 years, by Kyogle out of Queen of Diamonds.

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T. R. SMITH will sell at Railway, THIS DAY, Hay, Straw, Pumpkins, Potatoes, &c.

GRAHAM will sell by auction, at Railway, THIS DAY, Hay, straw, &c.

N. W. RAVEN will sell by auction, at Railway, THIS DAY, at 9 o'clock, Hay, straw, corn, &c.

GOSPER and MOSES will sell by auction, at the Railway Station, THIS DAY, Friday, at 9 o'clock.
Hay, straw, maize: 12 o'clock, at the Dog and Duck, prime calves, fat and store pigs, poultry, eggs, butter, and fifty (50) carcasses of corn-fed pork, &c.

ELLIS and CO. will sell by auction, at Railway, at 9 o'clock THIS DAY.
Hay, straw, maize, &c.

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ROOFING FELT.

NEW PREPARATION.—A TRIAL SHIPMENT.
By order of the Consignee.

R. F. STUBBS and CO. will sell by auction, at the Rooms, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock, 4 frames Anderson's new prepared roofing felt, each 4 rolls, 25 yards.

BRUSHWARE.
DANDY and SCRUBBING.
By order of the Consignee.

R. F. STUBBS and CO. will sell by auction, at the Rooms, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock, 2 cases scrubbing and dandy brushes. Particulars at sale.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

To Warehousemen, Drapers, and the Trade.

The Unreserved Sale of Packages of "Soft Goods," in the style of Messrs. B. Thompson and Co. on Fore account, will be continued THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock punctually, at our Sale Rooms, where catalogues are to be obtained. The Woolens will be sold at 12 o'clock.

CHAS. MOORE and CO. Auctioneers, 167, Pitt-street.

TO MESSRS. HART'S, WAREHOUSEMEN, DRAPERS, FLOCKERS, & OTHERS.
GREAT FINAL SALE OF 100 PACKAGES OF DRAPERY, CLOTHING, WOOLLENS, & OIL BAIZES, &c., &c.

In the Estate of Messrs. SAMUEL THOMPSON and CO., and on Foreign Account.

CHAS. MOORE and CO. are instructed to sell by public auction, without reserve, to the highest bidder, at their Sale Rooms, Pitt-street, THIS DAY, 19th instant, commencing at 11 o'clock punctually, 300 bales and cases of perfectly seasonable, and useful goods, a large proportion of which is recently from ship's side, and comprising one of the most extensive and best assortments ever offered to the trade of Sydney.

As orders to realise are imperative, buyers may depend upon getting all the advantages of an ABSOLUTELY UNRESERVED SALE. The goods will be sold from original invoices, and in whole packages as far as practicable.

Catalogues, describing each line, may be obtained at the Sale Rooms.

CHAS. MOORE and CO. are instructed to sell by public auction, at their Sale Rooms, Pitt-street, THIS DAY, at 12 o'clock, 300 cases woolens, consisting of a very extensive assortment of new and fashionable goods, for unreserved sale.

Vide Catalogue for further and full particulars.

PRELIMINARY.
Extensive and Important Sale by Auction of BOOKS, STATIONERY, &c.

Doy of Sale, MONDAY next, 22nd instant. Commencing at 11 o'clock, punctually.

CHAS. MOORE and CO. are instructed to sell by auction, at their Sale Rooms, Pitt-street, on MONDAY next, at 11 o'clock, An immense variety of books, stationery, &c.

Particulars in TO-MORROW'S HERALD.

Sale of Fancy Goods, Brushware, Hair Brushes, Combs, Cutlery, &c., &c.

FRIDAY, May 19th.

MR. CHARLES TEAKLE has received instructions to sell by auction, at his Rooms, Wyndham-street, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock, 15 cases of the above, just landed from Windsor Castle. HW in diamonds, 8

